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11 October 2019

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 8 October 2019 addressed to Your Excellency by H.E. Prof. Kudret Özersay, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The original of this letter is being transmitted through the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

İsmet Korukoğlu
Representative

H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations
United Nations Organization
New York.

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**TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

8 October 2019

Excellency,

I am writing to bring to your kind attention the airspace violations that took place on 24 and 25 September 2019, which were not only a clear provocation aimed at undermining our sovereign rights, but also posed a serious threat to flight safety by putting the lives of civilian passengers at grave risk.

On 24 September, an aircraft (Cessna-750) with call sign SXECI, which is believed to be operated by the Greek Civil Aviation Authority, violated the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) airspace at two different occasions.

The first incident recorded by Ercan Airport Air Control Centre was at 07:10Z. The said aircraft took off from Paphos airport, approached our border, crossed the border over Famagusta area and consequently violated Ercan Advisory Airspace for approximately 3 nautical miles. It was later monitored that SXECI landed at Larnaca airport at 08:10Z.

The said aircraft violated our airspace for a second time on the same day. This time following its take off from Larnaca airport at 11:35Z, the SXECI violated Ercan Advisory Airspace causing a collision threat with a civilian passenger plane operated by Turkish Airlines (THY42Q). At 11:40:38Z, it was recorded that the SXECI flew towards the said passenger plane and the distance between the two aircraft approaching from opposing directions was critically as low as 9.5 nautical miles.

On 25 September, the same aircraft repeated its violations. This time, following its take off from Larnaca airport, it violated our airspace 3 times between 11:50Z and 12:04Z at 8,000 feet altitude. Subsequently, it came as close as 7.5 nautical miles to the runway heading over Ercan Airport's approach path, violating Ercan Airport's terminal control area. During this violation, a collision with a passenger plane operated by Tailwind Airlines (TW1124) could be avoided only because its altitude was 5,600 feet and it was descending for landing at Ercan Airport.

H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix
United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations,
New York.

c.c. H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Spehar
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and
Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
Nicosia.

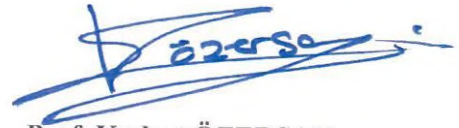
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Attached you would also find a selection of radar images which clearly show the violations described above.

In a manner further increasing the gravity of the situation posed by these provocative and life-threatening violations, during these incidents the said aircraft refrained from responding to the radio calls made from Ercan Airport Air Control Centre over the international emergency frequency, 121.5mhz., blatantly violating yet another international civil aviation rule aimed at preserving flight safety.

We would like to protest, in the strongest possible manner, the above-mentioned airspace violations and urge UNFICYP to immediately and resoundingly take the necessary steps to ensure that such provocative violations will not be repeated. In this context, we expect that the UN will also strongly protest the said violations, as such actions have the capacity of escalating tension in the region, as well as risking the lives of civilian passengers.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Prof. Kudret ÖZERSAY
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Attached: As stated.